



www.freedombaptistchurch.com
www.facebook.com/freedominvirginia

My Daily Devotion for
my family's
Spiritual Growth
Issue 6



"We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done." Psalm 78:4

How Does “My Daily Devotion for My Family’s Spiritual Growth” Time Work?

Welcome to My Daily Devotion for My Family’s Spiritual Growth, a weekly devotional designed to help your family reflect on a story from God’s Word, pray together, and connect. These devotions will take you through the Bible. The idea is simple: discover together how God’s Word is relevant to your family each week. We think the spiritual results in your family alone can impact generations to come.

We know your family is busy with work, school, ballgames, and all that life throws you, so the devotion is designed to be flexible and mobile. You can use this at the dinner table, before bed, or in your car. You decide what works best for you.

1. Decide on a time when your family can pull together for a few minutes each day.
2. My Daily Devotion for My Family’s Spiritual Growth is available at Freedom. They are free.
3. Family members can take turns reading the daily verses and devotion.
4. After the devotion talk about prayer requests as a family and spend a few moments praying for each other.
5. At the end of the week, reflect together on the discussion questions.
6. Finally, don’t be intimidated by having spiritual conversations as a family. This could easily be the most important few minutes you have all day.

We hope you enjoy this journey through God’s Word as a family. Our prayer is that it will transform your family spiritually in ways never expected!

In Christ,
Pastor Larry

Week 1

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Laws and rules are important because they help us know which behaviors are right and which are wrong. Parents and teachers set up rules for at home and in your classroom, while elected leaders pass laws for our community and country. God gave the nation of Israel a set of laws to live by – the Ten Commandments. These commands form the foundation for many of our laws today. This week we'll begin a journey through God's commands for right and wrong behavior.

Wednesday

Think about the rules in your family, school, and workplace. What behaviors are right and wrong in each place? What happens if you break the rules? The Ten Commandments are the most important laws and rules ever given because God Himself wrote them. He gave the Ten Commandments to His people to show them how to have loving relationships with Him and with each other. They are God's rules for which attitudes and behaviors are right and which ones are wrong. Read Exodus 20:1-21 together before you continue. The first four commands explain how to have a right relationship with God. He is the only true God, so only He should be worshiped. His followers shouldn't bow in worship to any kind of idol. Not even an image designed to represent Him. The name of the Lord should be used reverently, not disrespectfully.

Thursday

The last six commandments teach us how to live unselfishly as a family and as a community. Children should honor their parents. Spouses should remain faithful to each other. We should respect one another's life, property, and reputation. Finally, God instructs us to be content and not want what belongs to someone else.

You may think you know all about the Ten Commandments, but there's so much to learn by examining them carefully. In the next several weeks, we'll look at the commandments one-by-one, and see what the New Testament says about them as well. For instance, read what Jesus taught about murder in Matthew 5:21-22.

Friday

There's an old saying, "If the sin is wrong, then the road to sin is wrong." Since murder is wrong, then the feelings of anger and hate that lead to murder are wrong. You see, the Ten Commandments are more than a list of do's and don'ts. They help us identify sinful thoughts and attitudes. Once we understand clearly what God says about what is wrong, we can replace it with behavior that is right.

1. Which of the Ten Commandments are laws in our country today?
2. Which of the Ten Commandments are not considered important by many people in our society?
3. What happens in our family and community when these commands are obeyed versus when they are disobeyed?

Saturday

God's designed you to recognize His as your Creator by worshiping Him alone and honoring His name. God also created your friends, family, and neighbors. You can have a loving relationship with Him by following His rules, which also makes it possible to have loving relationships with one another. That's why God tells us what is right and what is wrong. His commands that say, "Do not," keep us from behavior that would hurt us or others. When we obey what He tells us to do, our relationship with Him and our relationships with the people around us will grow stronger.

Will you listen carefully as we study each command? Start looking for wrong attitudes and actions that need to be corrected in your life. Which of God's rules for right and wrong do you need to work on the most this week? The relationships in your family will be stronger as each of you develops a closer relationship with God.

Week 2

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

We said last week that the Ten Commandments are God's rules for right and wrong behavior. Correct behavior must start with the right attitude. Before we examine the Ten Commandments one-by-one, let's look at how the first four commands should shape our attitude toward God.

How many of the Ten Commandments can your family name from memory? Here's a helpful tip: the first four are about our relationship with God, and the last six are about relationships with other people. Go!

How did you do? Check your accuracy by asking one member of the family to read Exodus 20:1-7.

Wednesday

The first four commandments teach us how to have a proper view of God so we can have a loving relationship with Him and with other people. How you respond to those commands reveals what you really think and feel about God. Let's take a quick attitude check based on the first four commands.

First, do you believe there is only one God – the God of Scripture? Or do you believe there are many ways to Heaven? Do you trust God completely, or do you find trusting Him difficult because He cannot be physically seen or touched? Are you careful about how you use God's name, or do you sometimes say His name in an irreverent or silly way?

Thursday

What did you learn about your attitude toward the Lord based on how you answered those questions? The Lord God Almighty is the one true God. Since He alone is worthy to be worshiped, His name and His day deserve our respect. When you give the God of Scripture the highest place in your life, then you will think and behave in ways that please Him. The ultimate result will be a loving, personal relationship with the Creator of the universe!

Friday

1. As family, make a list of right and wrong attitudes toward God.
2. Which right attitude do you need to work on the most?
3. How can you guard your thoughts and attitude toward God?

Saturday

Even as devoted followers of Christ, we sometimes let worldly things seep into our thinking. When that happens, our view of God slowly begins to change from what the Bible says. You might not notice when your attitude starts to be swayed by how people who don't know Jesus think, so you have to intentionally guard your heart and mind. Ask God to help you recognize wrong views of Him on television, at school, or in conversations with friends. Guard your thinking by reading the truth about God each day from His Word. Remember, right behavior starts with the right attitude.

Week 3

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Many people today either doubt or outright deny that God exists. They only believe in what they can see and touch. Have you ever wondered if our invisible God is real? Well, the First Commandment remind us that there is only one true God, and He deserves our complete and total loyalty. As a matter of fact, He commands it! Let's take a look at how God reminded the Israelites that He is real.

What do you have to be reminded of most often? Why do you think you're forgetful about that particular thing?

Very few people have the ability to remember perfectly. Of course, God knows that human beings tend to be forgetful – even about the most important things. Ask a family member to read Exodus 20:1-3 and make note of what God reminded Israel in the first words of the Ten Commandments.

Wednesday

God reminded Israel of who He was and what He had done in the past so they would worship Him alone. You see, generations of Israelites had grown up as slaves, watching the Egyptians worship false gods. Instead of recognizing the Lord as their Creator, the people of Egypt created gods from various plants and animals. They worshiped creation instead of the Creator. How does Genesis 1:1 remind you of who God is?

All the gods of Egypt were no match for the Lord. By miraculously delivering Israel from slavery, the Lord proved that the gods of Egypt were false and the God of Israel was real. God's people were to be different from Egypt and from other nations they would encounter as they traveled to their new home. The Lord reminded the Israelites that they served the one true God.

Thursday

The First Commandment may seem simple – “have no other gods.” But Israel struggled over and over again to keep it. From time to time the Lord would remind His people that He alone is God. One of the best examples of this is found in 1 Kings 18:16-39. Check out this incredible passage together right now.

Although, Elijah was greatly outnumbered, he knew without a doubt that he served the one true God. When the power of the Lord fell on the altar, God’s people remembered Him and cried out repeatedly, “The Lord – He is our God!” The God of Israel proved once again that He was (and is) real.

Friday

Today, as in the days of the Israelites, we place our faith in the invisible God. Even though we can’t see Him with our eyes or touch Him with our hands, the Lord works in the world and in our lives to remind us that he is our Creator, Provider, and Protector.

1. What evidence in creation proves that God is real?
2. How has God protected and provided for your family in the past? How did it remind you to keep him in first place in your life?

Saturday

If you read the Bible regularly and are actively involved in church, then you probably believe that God exists and still works in our world. Are your actions and attitudes consistent with what you say you believe? Do you honor God as your Creator by how you behave? Are you trusting in anything or anyone other than the Lord to provide for what you need? Having no other gods before the Lord isn’t just something you acknowledge in our thoughts. How you choose to live each day show what you really believe.

As you go throughout your week, look for someone who has doubts that God is real. Ask the Lord to help you show His love to that person. It’s not enough to simply know that we serve the only true God – we need to share that news with the world!

Week 4

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Let's take turns describing an object in the room and have your family guess what it is. Now take turns describing the wind. Why is that more difficult? Trying to describe God is a lot like trying to describe the wind – neither can be seen or grasped, but each is still real. Take a quick look at the second commandment in Exodus 20:4. God commanded Israel not to make or bow down to idols. Still, the Israelites wanted to worship something they could see and touch. What happened in Exodus 32:1-4 while Moses was on Mt. Sinai receiving God's Law?

Wednesday

The Israelites asked Aaron to make a god. Stop to think about that for a moment...they wanted to worship something human hands created instead of worshipping the God who created them! To make matters even worse, they gave the golden calf credit for what the Lord God Almighty had done. Do you think God was angry? You better believe he was! The answer to why He was so angry is found back in the Ten Commandments. Ask someone to read Exodus 20:5-6 to see what God said after the second commandment. God's jealousy for His people can be confusing at first, but it isn't sinful – it's righteous. He wanted Israel to protect their relationship with Him the same way a husband and wife should protect their relationship by keeping their promise to be faithful to each other. When Israel gave their love and loyalty to something else. He was jealous because their worship rightly belonged to Him. When parents turn from God and worship anything other than the Lord, their children suffer the natural consequences of not being brought up to trust and honor their Creator.

Thursday

There's another interesting part of the second commandment. God told Israel not to make an image of anything, including God Himself. Since God is spirit, He is in all places at all times and cannot be contained in an inanimate object (John 4:21). He is too glorious and powerful to portray. Read Colossians 1:15 and Hebrews 1:3 to discover the one image God gave of Himself to the world.

Friday

If you want to know what God is like, then look at Jesus. It's true that we don't know today exactly what Jesus looked like. After all, there were no cameras on Earth during His lifetime. But Jesus' outward appearance isn't really important – it is His character and inner nature that make Him God. One day we will see Jesus in all of His glory, and fall to our knees in worship. Until then, we must guard against giving our highest love and loyalty to anything or anyone else.

1. How do you think people worship idols or images in today's world?
2. Try to describe in your own words why it's good that our God is too big to be contained in a gold or wooden object.
3. Think of ways you can show that your highest love and loyalty belong to God. Share those thoughts with your family.

Saturday

God created each of us with a desire to worship, but that doesn't mean that you will automatically worship Him. Like the Israelites, we sometimes give our affections to the wrong things. Has something else become more important than God in our daily life? Do you love anyone more than you love Him? If you answered yes to either one of those questions, then that thing or person is becoming an idol in your life. Will you commit to loving God supremely this week? Your relationships with one another will improve as God moves into first place in your individual lives.

Week 5

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Parents choose names for their children for all kinds of reasons. They may simply like the sound of the name or the meaning that it has. Sometimes, parents name their children after another family member, special friend, or a person in the Bible. Names are important in Scripture, but no name is more significant than the name of the Lord. This week's devotion will focus on using God's name in the right way.

Do you know why you were given the name you have? If you were named after a particular person, discuss what led your parents to give you that name. You can also use a search engine to look up the meaning of each family member's name. Does your name accurately represent something about you?

Wednesday

Names in the Bible often represented an event at the time of the child's birth or expressed the parents' desire for the kind of life the child would have. But God's name expresses His character far more than any human name ever could. That's why the third commandment is so important. Ask a family member to read Exodus 20:7.

Thursday

The command not to misuse God's name implies that it should be used correctly – with reverence and respect. However, our society has forgotten what it means for God's name to be precious. Even Christians sometimes casually or jokingly use phrases containing God's name. We need to break any habit of saying the name of the Lord when we aren't talking about Him or to Him.

Friday

To better understand why God's name should be used with such respect, we need a better understanding of what His name means. There are many names of God in the Bible because His nature cannot be expressed in just one name. What do you learn about God's name or character from the following verses – Psalm 47:2, Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 54:5, 1 Timothy 1:17?

Wow! Is it any wonder that we should use the name of our God with such respect? His name is awesome – literally!

1. Think back to the way you described your normal day. How can you show the love of Christ, right where you are, every day?
2. When has God put you in the right place at the right time to either tell someone about Jesus or to do something that showed His love?
3. Take turns sharing your personal testimony of how you met Jesus. Make sure to include how knowing Him has changed your thoughts, attitudes, and actions.

Saturday

1. How do you feel and react when God's name is misused around you?

2. Give examples of proper ways to use the name of the Lord.

The command not to misuse the name of the Lord should motivate followers of Christ to always use God's name with reverence and respect. Look for opportunities this week to make God's character known by using His name in ways that honor Him. When your words give God the credit and the glory for what is happening in your life, you honor His name. How can you show respect for His name throughout the week? Keep in mind that how we talk about God matters to Him.

Week 6

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Do you have chores and responsibilities around the house like cleaning up your room? Your family might save bigger projects in the yard or around the house for a Saturday and attend church together on Sundays. You may even get to do fun things with friends and family on the weekends.

Ask family members to describe a normal day in their lives. How is your weekday routine different from a Saturday?

There's no doubt that your daily routine is quite different from the daily routine of an Israelite in the Old Testament. Yet, similarities can be found in anyone's day-to-day life. Pick a family member to read Exodus 20:8-11 and see what God has to say in the Ten Commandments about our routines.

Wednesday

If the Sabbath was the last day of the week – Saturday – why do Christians gather to worship on Sunday, the first day of the week? Check out the clues in Matthew 28:1-7 before you continue. We have the best reason in the world – it was the day Jesus rose from the grave! Each Sunday is an opportunity for followers of Christ to celebrate His resurrection and reflect on what God did by sending His Son to pay the price for our sins.

Thursday

God's pattern from creation teaches us the importance of taking a day that is reserved to reflect on what God has already done and to focus our attention on Christ for the coming week.

1. Describe a normal Sunday for your family. Come up with the ways that members of your family can take a break from their usual routines in order to focus on the Lord.
2. How would it help your body, mind, and emotions to reserve more time to focus on the Lord?

Friday

Sometimes we fail to recognize how we're following the world's pattern rather than God's. Sunday has become the busiest day of the week at most grocery stores and shopping places. Many time Christians leave church and rush off to a flurry of chores and activities. Like most things, a day of rest requires sticking to a plan the other six days of the week. If we put off our chores or have too many responsibilities, we simply run out of time to get everything done. What would you have to change during the week in order to take Sunday as a day of rest?

Saturday

This Sunday, try to plan a family meal after your morning service. Intentionally focus your attention on God by discussing what each person learned from the sermon or from his or her LIFE Group. How has God provided for your family this week? Monday's chores and responsibilities will still come, but you will be better prepared to face them with a rested body, mind, and spirit.

Week 7

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

We have looked at a better way to love God by following His rules in the first four of the Ten Commandments. We've discovered how these commands help to shape the right attitude toward the Lord. This week we'll begin our exploration of how the right attitude toward God affects our behavior toward others.

How would you want people to treat others if you were in charge of the rules at school, church, or in our neighborhood?

Wednesday

The last six commandments are God's rules for our relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers. How well do the rules your family came up with match God's rules? As a family, try to name the last six commandments from memory. Then read Exodus 20:12-17.

How did you do? Commandments five through ten teach us to live unselfishly as a family and as a community. Children should honor and obey their parents. Spouses should remain faithful to each other. We should respect one another's life, property, and reputation. And finally, God instructs us to be content with what we have, being satisfied with what God has provided and not wanting what belongs to someone else.

Thursday

Have you ever wondered why we need rules about how to treat one another? Why doesn't everyone just do the right thing? Let's take a minute to see what the Apostle Paul said in Romans 7:14-25 about why God gave us His law in the Ten Commandments.

God's law shows us that we're sinners in need of a Savior. But even after we choose to follow Christ, we can be guilty of selfishness, greed, or an unloving attitude. As you begin to grow as a Christian, there is still a battle against sin going on inside of you. It's a struggle between following your sinful nature (leading to wrong behavior) and your spiritual nature (leading to right behavior.) When you have the right attitude toward God, you become more aware of sinful thoughts and attitudes. A right relationship with Him helps you to see and treat other people with the same love and respect that He does.

Friday

1. Why do you think God placed such importance on how people treat each other?
2. Think of examples of how wrong attitudes toward God can cause wrong behavior toward each other.
3. Look at commandments five through ten one more time. How would loving as God loves help you to keep each of these?

Saturday

Which of the last six commandments is hardest for you to follow regularly? Do your words and actions honor your mom and dad? Are you determined to be truthful, no matter what the consequences are? Are you content with the things God has provided for you?

It's not enough to simply know the right thing to do or to simply desire to do it – we need to follow through on the rules that God has given us. When you struggle to do the right thing, remember that it's your sinful nature taking over. Turn to God – He has promised to help you. Human relationships aren't perfect, but they will be greatly improved when you rely on God's Word and the Holy Spirit to help you.

Week 8

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

The last six commandments give God's instructions about how people should treat one another. The first relationship most of us have is with our mother and father, so it's no surprise that it's the first human relationship God talks about in the Ten Commandments. This week we'll explore what it means to honor our parents.

What are a few things you have learned from your mom and dad?

Wednesday

As a baby, you didn't know how to do anything, and then someone patiently taught you simple things like how to walk and how to use a spoon. Those people were most likely your parents. Have a family member read Exodus 20:12 to see what God says to children about how to treat their fathers and mothers.

Honoring your parents starts with being grateful for all they do and have done for you. True gratitude is more than saying, "Thank you"; it shows up in your attitude toward your parents each day. You demonstrate gratitude every time you choose to do what they've asked you to do. The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus about the importance of obedience to parents. Take a look at what he said to kids in Ephesians 6:1-3.

Thursday

Obeying your mom and dad is the right thing to do because God has placed you under their authority. Your parents set rules for your family because they love you and want what's best for you. When you obey them, you are obeying God. He even promises that things will go better in your life when you respect your parents' wishes. Obeying your parents is one way you can honor them and show your love for them.

The relationship between parents and children is a picture of the relationship God wants to have with each of us. Our heavenly Father is the perfect parent, and Jesus is His perfect Son. But we aren't perfect – are we? God wants you to love your parents, even when they make mistakes – the same way they love and forgive you when you mess up. Notice that God didn't say to honor your parents when they are right. He simply said to honor your father and mother. You might not have parents who love and follow Christ, but God still wants

you to honor them. There may be times when as a Christian child, you have to say, “I cannot do that” if a parents tells you to lie or do something else that goes against God’s Word. Your determination to follow God, combined with a respectful and loving attitude will be a testimony for the Lord, to your parents, as well as to others.

Friday

The command to honor our parents doesn’t stop when we grow up. Check out what 1 Timothy 5:4 says about one way adults can honor their parents. As a family, it’s important to take care of people who have taken care of us. It’s impossible to truly repay your parents and grandparents for all of their support and guidance, but following their example and helping to care for them as they get older is a sign of true faith and a grateful heart. Plus, it gives you the opportunity to show how much you love them!

1. How have your parents shown love and care for you?
2. Ask family members to name specific ways they can show gratitude, respect and care for their parents.
3. If you were not brought up by your mother and father, how can you honor and respect the person who provided and cared for you?

Saturday

Be determined this week to have an attitude toward your parents that first honors the Lord. Look for ways to thank your parents for providing for your needs. Be careful that your words and tone who respect for their authority. Gratitude, obedience, respect, and care – all of these things are part of honoring your father and your mother. How will your life honor them this week?

Week 9

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Most people would agree that it's wrong to take the life of another person. But what about things like hatred and uncontrolled anger? Jesus taught His followers to love one another and to show His love to people who didn't know Him. This week we'll take a closer look at the Sixth Commandment and learn what Jesus said about our attitudes toward other people.

Ask each family member to describe a food that they hate to eat and a food they love to eat.

How did your faces and voices change when you described foods you love versus ones that you hate? The same thing happens when those emotions enter our conversations about people. We often use the word "hate" without much thought. Sometimes, we use strong words that don't really reflect our true feelings. As we're about to learn, however, God isn't pleased when we express hatred towards other people.

Wednesday

The Sixth Commandment has only four words, "Thou shalt not kill." (Exodus 20:13), yet the Bible has so much more to say about why we should place a high value on human life. To understand why God gave this command, we need to go back to the beginning – the very beginning. Turn to Genesis 1:27 in your Bible and ask someone in your family to read that verse aloud.

Human beings are different from all other living things. God created us in His image so we could have a personal relationship with Him, the Creator. No other part of creation is as valuable to God as people. But when sin came into the world, it affected how people valued and treated one another. Check out what happened to the very first family in Genesis 4:1-12.

Thursday

Cain allowed himself to be consumed with a sinful attitude – anger. The result was the murder of his brother Abel. Let's look at what Jesus taught about the connection between anger and murder in Matthew 5:21-22.

As followers of Christ we would never think about killing someone, but keeping our anger under control is more difficult, isn't it? Have you ever yelled at a sibling or a friend when you got mad? The words "Raca" and "fool" that Jesus talked about would be like calling someone stupid or an idiot. That kind of attitude fuels anger in your heart and can eventually become hatred if it's left uncontrolled.

Friday

Let's check out what 1 John 3:15 says about uncontrolled anger.

Wow! John says that whoever hates his brother is a murderer! God looks at the heart, and hating someone is like committing murder in your heart. You see, it's not enough to simply follow the do's and don'ts of the Ten Commandments, God also wants our thoughts and attitudes to reflect His character. Check out what Jesus told His disciples in John 13:34-35. Since God loves and values every person.

1. What causes you to lose your temper or become angry with someone?
2. Discuss ways that family members can learn to control strong emotions like anger, jealousy, and hatred.

Saturday

Uncontrolled anger and hatred are not from God, so they should never have any place in our lives. We all get mad from time to time, but we need to let God control our emotions before we speak or act out of anger. Having a strong negative emotions for another person over and over again should send a warning to your heart. Ask God to help you see that person as God sees him or her. God loves and values every person because each one has been created in His image – even the ones you get angry with. Share with your family how you will how God's love this week.

Week 10

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Seven of the Ten Commandments instruct us not to do something. God's negative command ("You shall not..."), suggest that there's something we should do. This week we'll see how that works with the Seventh Commandment and why it's so important for husbands and wives to be faithful to each other.

Name something you have been told not to do, and then tell your family what the opposite behavior should be.

Every sinful behavior has an opposite, God-honoring behavior. Rea the Seventh Commandment in Exodus 20:14. What command did God give to people who are married? What do you think the opposite behavior should be?

Wednesday

God designed romantic love to be between a husband and wife. Adultery is the sinful act of a married person showing that kind of affection to someone other than his or her spouse. God's command for married people to not commit adultery is also a command to be a faithful husband and wife.

Being faithful in marriage mirrors the character of God. Take a look at what the following psalms says about God's faithfulness – Psalm 117:1-2 and Psalm 145:13. God is always faithful to His people and to His promises. When a man and woman get married they promise to love, honor, and cherish each other this way. As followers of Christ, we should be faithful to our promises to each other and to Him.

Thursday

We've been learning that Jesus had a lot to say about the Old Testament laws and the Ten Commandments when He lived on Earth. Do you remember what we learned last week about hatred? Well, just as hatred is like committing murder in the heart, even thinking about another person the way God wants husbands and wives to think about each other is committing adultery in the heart. Ask a family member to read Matthew 5:27-28 to see exactly what Jesus said.

Husbands and wives should remain faithful to their spouse with their entire being – body, mind, and heart. But what do you think Jesus did when He learned someone had been unfaithful? Stop and read John 8:1-11 to see how

Jesus surprised the teachers of the Law. God wants us to stop any sin we are committing and be faithful to Him.

Friday

Why is it so important for a husband and wife to be faithful to each other? Because God created marriage to be a picture of our relationship with Him. God is faithful to us and forgives us when we are unfaithful. And He gives us the ability to forgive others and be faithful to the promises we have made.

1. What promises have you made to God and to other people? How can you be faithful to those promises this week?
2. From what you've learned about the fifth and seventh commandments, describe in our own words what God wants a Christian home to look like.

Saturday

There's so much more to God's commands than, "You shall not," isn't there? Living to please the Lord means turning away from sinful thoughts and behaviors. But it also means thinking and acting in ways that honor Him. Pay special attention this week to the things parents and teachers tell you not to do. Think about what the opposite behavior would be – then do it!

Think about how your family described a Christian home. How will you honor God this week as a child, a parent, or a spouse? Be determined to keep your promises to one another and to God. Will you choose to be a faithful follower of Jesus this week?

Week 11

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

The Ten Commandments are God's most basic rules. Two of those commandments address the importance of being trustworthy. Next week we'll take a look at being trustworthy with our words. But first, this week's devotion will explore what God says about being trustworthy with our actions.

What are some actions that show that a person isn't trustworthy?

Any behavior you have to hide is usually wrong behavior. Even thieves sneak around in the darkness to hide what they're doing because they understand that their actions are wrong. Taking something that doesn't belong to you is stealing, and we know that stealing is wrong. Check out Exodus 20:15 to see how the Eighth Commandment addresses stealing.

Wednesday

We learned last week that every sinful behavior has an opposite, God-honoring behavior. What does Ephesians 4:28 suggest the opposite of stealing is?

Instead of taking what belongs to someone else, our hands should be busy working so we can share what we've earned with others. The book of Luke tells us the true story of a man who stopped cheating people in his community after he met Jesus. Ask someone in your family to read his story in Luke 19:1-9.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector. It was his job to collect money owed to the government, but Zacchaeus was not honest. He collected more than people owed and kept the extra for himself. When Zacchaeus met, Jesus, however, he stopped cheating people, paid back what he had stolen, and gave back more than he had taken.

Thursday

Obedying God's command not to steal includes more than respecting another person's property and money. If your eyes wander to a classmate's paper during a test, then you're stealing his or her answers. We sometimes forget that nothing can be hidden from God. He knows everything you do.

Friday

1. Think back to the untrustworthy actions you discussed. Name an opposite, God-honoring behavior for each one.
2. As a family discuss what you think about the following statements:
 - a. Bringing a pen home from your workplace or wasting time at work is robbing your employer.
 - b. Copying another person's homework is cheating.
 - c. Taking credit for another person's words or ideas is stealing.

Saturday

Will you choose to respect other people's money, property, time, and ideas? Remember, hard work and honesty honor God. If you are a student – work hard. If you are a parent or teenager with a job – work hard. Then be generous with the knowledge and money you've earned. If you find yourself trying to hide something you've done from your parents, your teacher, or your boss, don't forget that nothing is hidden from God. Be careful to show that you can be trusted each and every day.

Week 12

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

Last week we began looking at the character trait of being trustworthy by exploring how our actions line up with the Eighth Commandment, "You shall not steal." Let's continue with the theme of being trustworthy and learn why honesty and truthfulness are so important to God.

Has someone ever said something about you that was not true? How did it make you feel?

Not telling the truth in a court of law can have serious consequences. A judge expects each person in the courtroom to be truthful. Well, God has given His people the responsibility of telling the truth, even when it's difficult because you might get into trouble, or you might get someone else in trouble. As a matter of fact they would be a righteous nation. If you are a follower of Christ, then honesty should reflect who you are in Jesus. For the last couple of weeks, we've explored the idea that every sinful behavior has an opposite behavior that honors God because it displays His character.

Wednesday

What does Exodus 20:16 tell us not to do, and what is its opposite? Did you spot the word, "false"? Honesty and truthfulness are important because they are part of God's character. Scripture tells us that all of God's words are true (Psalm 119:160). In fact, God's Word is truth (John 17:17). But wait, there's more! What does the Bible tell us in John 1:14 and John 14:6 about how truth is connected with Jesus?

Let those verses sink in for a moment. Truth comes from God because Jesus is the Truth! Since there is nothing false in Him, then no falsehood should come from His followers.

Thursday

Continue reading in John 14 to discover what verses 16-17 say is true of Christ followers.

The Spirit of truth lives inside each person who receives Jesus as Savior.

Yet, we all face the temptation to be untruthful from time to time. We even tell ourselves that “little white lies” are no big deal. Or, that it’s okay to tell only part of the truth to stay out of trouble. Think of it this way though – if your words are technically true, but you’re trying to mislead someone, then you are not being completely honest; you’re being deceitful. A half-truth is a whole lie. God doesn’t put our untruthfulness on a scale from 1 to 10. He simply draws a line between truth and untruth, between honesty and dishonesty.

Friday

Check out what the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:22-25 about our old nature versus our new nature. Did you notice how similar verse 25 is to the Ninth Commandment in Exodus 20:16? You have a choice to make each day. Your words and actions will display either your old deceitful nature or your new righteous nature. That’s why honesty and truthfulness are so important – you were created to display the righteous and holy nature of the Lord. And He is the God of truth!

1. How do you feel when someone lies to you? Why is it hard to truth that person is again?
2. According to what we learned this week, is it okay to lie if the truth would hurt someone’s feelings? What examples can you think of, and how could you handle the situation honestly?

Saturday

Trust takes a long time to build, but it can be broken in an instant. Dishonest actions lead people to believe that you are not trustworthy, and dishonest words can cause people to doubt everything you say. Being dishonest goes against the nature of God, His Word, His Son, and His Spirit. Do you have a reputation for being honest and trustworthy? Being honest and trustworthy helps point people to Jesus, but claiming to follow Jesus but not being truthful is a poor testimony for God and prevents us from truly worshiping Him. If you can lie and deceive without feeling the conviction of God’s Spirit, then stop and examine whether or not the Holy Spirit lives inside of you. Whose nature will you choose to display this week?

Week 13

Monday

Discuss what everyone learned at church.

Tuesday

It's natural to think about things that we want. Many of those things are good, and we work hard to have them. But focusing all of your thoughts and energy on what you want rather than what God has already given you will never make you truly happy. This week's devotion explores the secret of being content and what God says about wanting something so much that it consumes your thoughts.

What is something that you want and why?

It's fun to think about new things that we want – isn't it? Sometimes, though, we can want something so much that it's all we think about. You might even convince yourself that you won't be satisfied until you have it. Check our Exodus 20:17 to see what God said to the Israelites about keeping their wants under control.

Wednesday

The Tenth Commandment warns about coveting, which is a strong desire to have something that someone else has. The things God told Israel not to covet covered every area of their lives, as well as ours. Coveting their neighbor's house or wife meant wishing they lived in a different place or had a different family. Coveting someone's servants, ox, or donkey is wanting that person's possessions, lifestyle, or job.

When you covet, you're really saying to God, "What you've given to me isn't enough." Let's take a look at Philippians 4:10-14 to learn what God-honoring attitude is the opposite of coveting.

Paul was content because he knew and trusted God, not because of what he had. Did you notice, though, that he "learned" to be content? That's a lesson we all need to learn. Once Paul understood the secret to contentment – relying on God's strength – he could help others to trust God, too. How did he encourage the Philippians in 4:19?

Thursday

Ask a family member to read 1 Timothy 6:6-10 to hear what Paul wrote to his friend Timothy about being content. God's idea of contentment is quite different from ours. Our wants usually go way beyond food and clothes. But Paul didn't just warn Timothy not to want money and things – instead, he instructed him to desire God, who would always be with him.

Contentment doesn't come from what you have, where you live, where you work, or who your family is. Contentment comes from knowing that God is enough. Nothing or no one else can ever fill the empty space in your life that is meant for God. He's the only One who can really make you satisfied and happy.

Friday

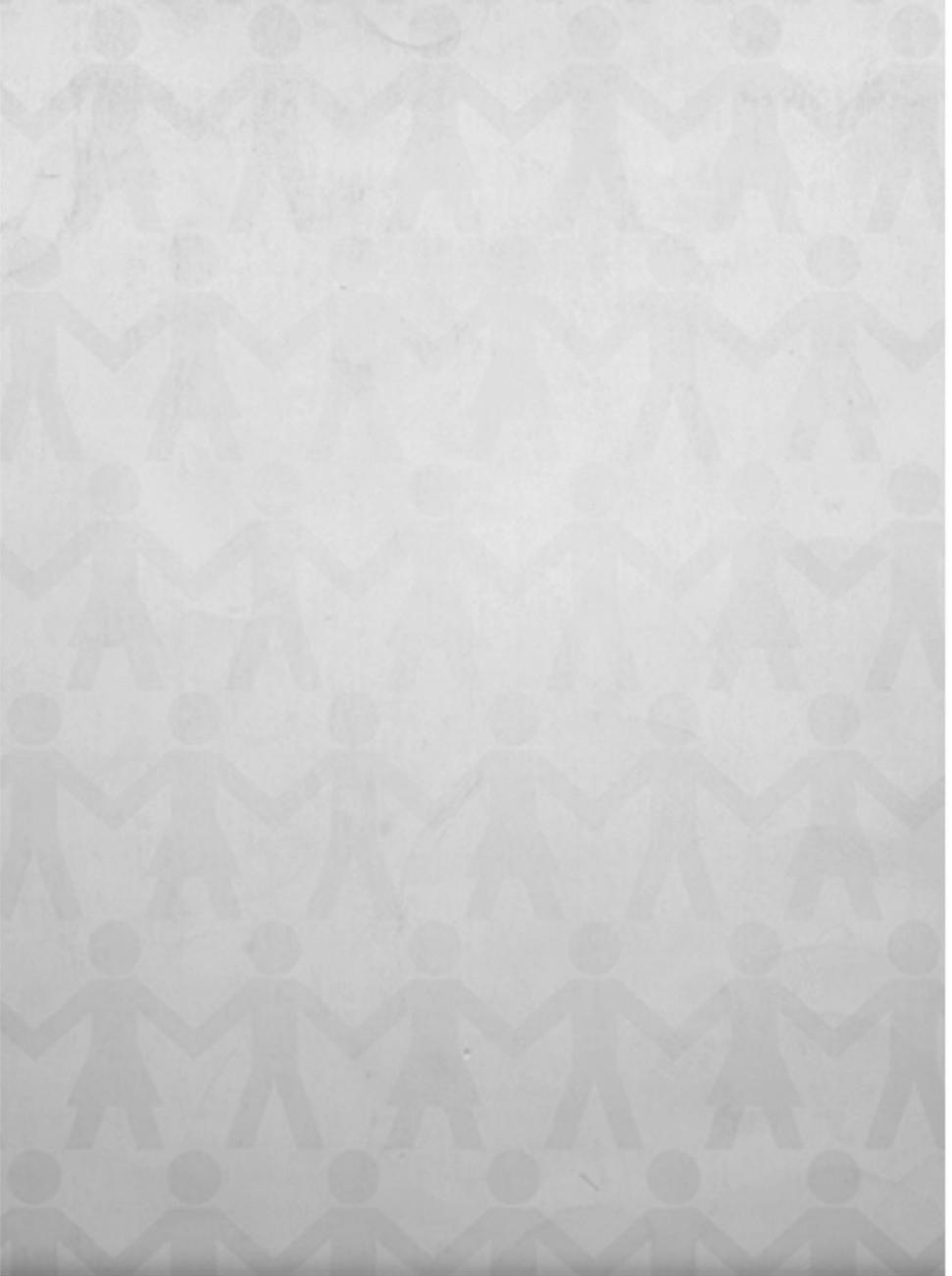
1. Spend a few minutes talking about the things God has already given to you. How does knowing that God is your Provider help you to be more content?
2. How have you recently wished that something about your life was more like someone else's life? Discuss with your family how you can learn to be content in that area.

Saturday

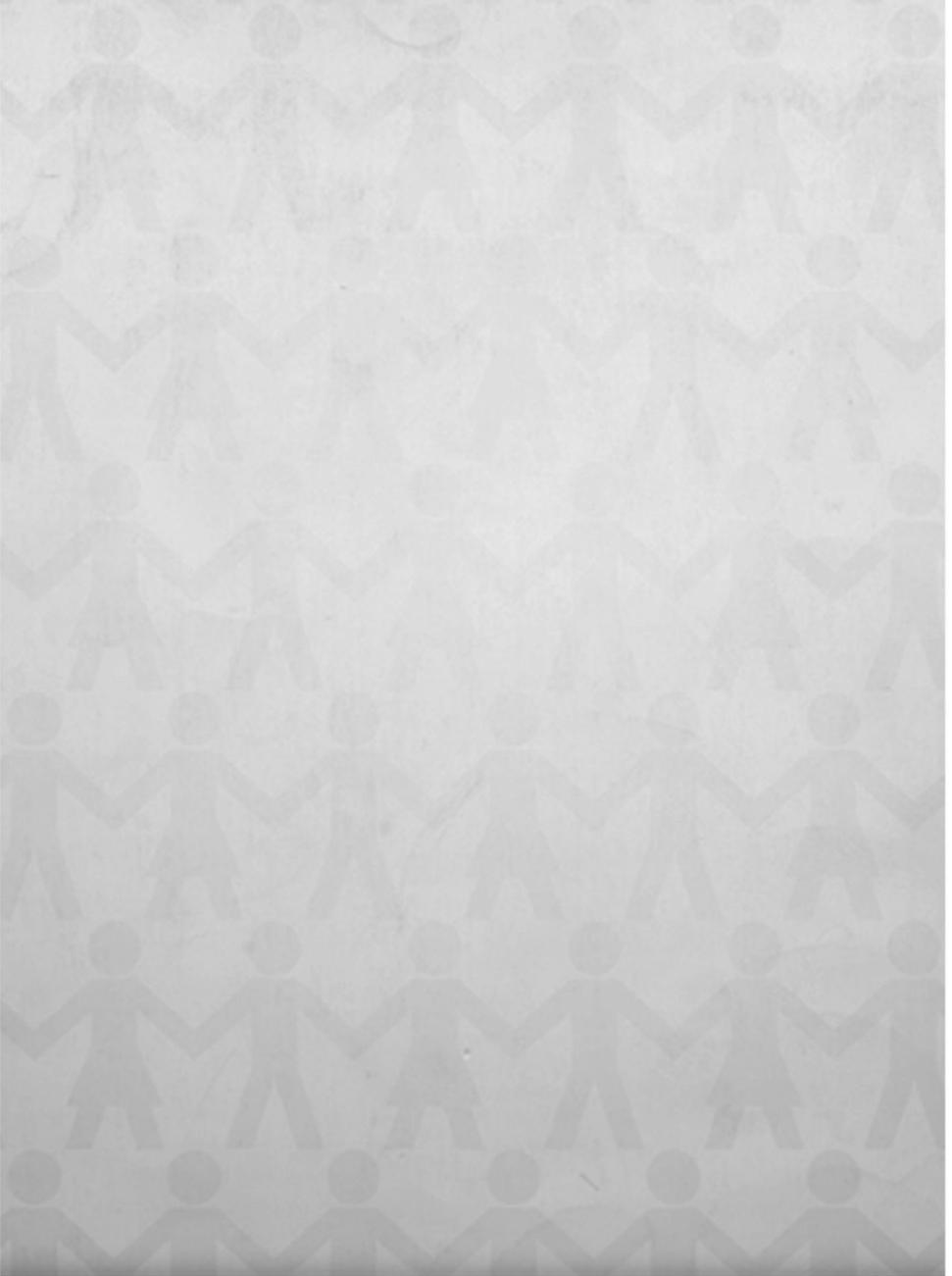
Have family members write 1 Timothy 6:6 on index cards or sticky notes to help each of you memorize Paul's advice about godliness and contentment. Be aware this week of when your wants start to get out of control, and then quote that verse.

Remember, no one else has a life exactly like yours. Only you can live the life that God has allowed you to have. Instead of wanting what someone else has, look for ways you can serve and honor the Lord right where you are with exactly what He has given to you. God may very well give you the things you desire, but He often waits until we learn to be content with what we already have.

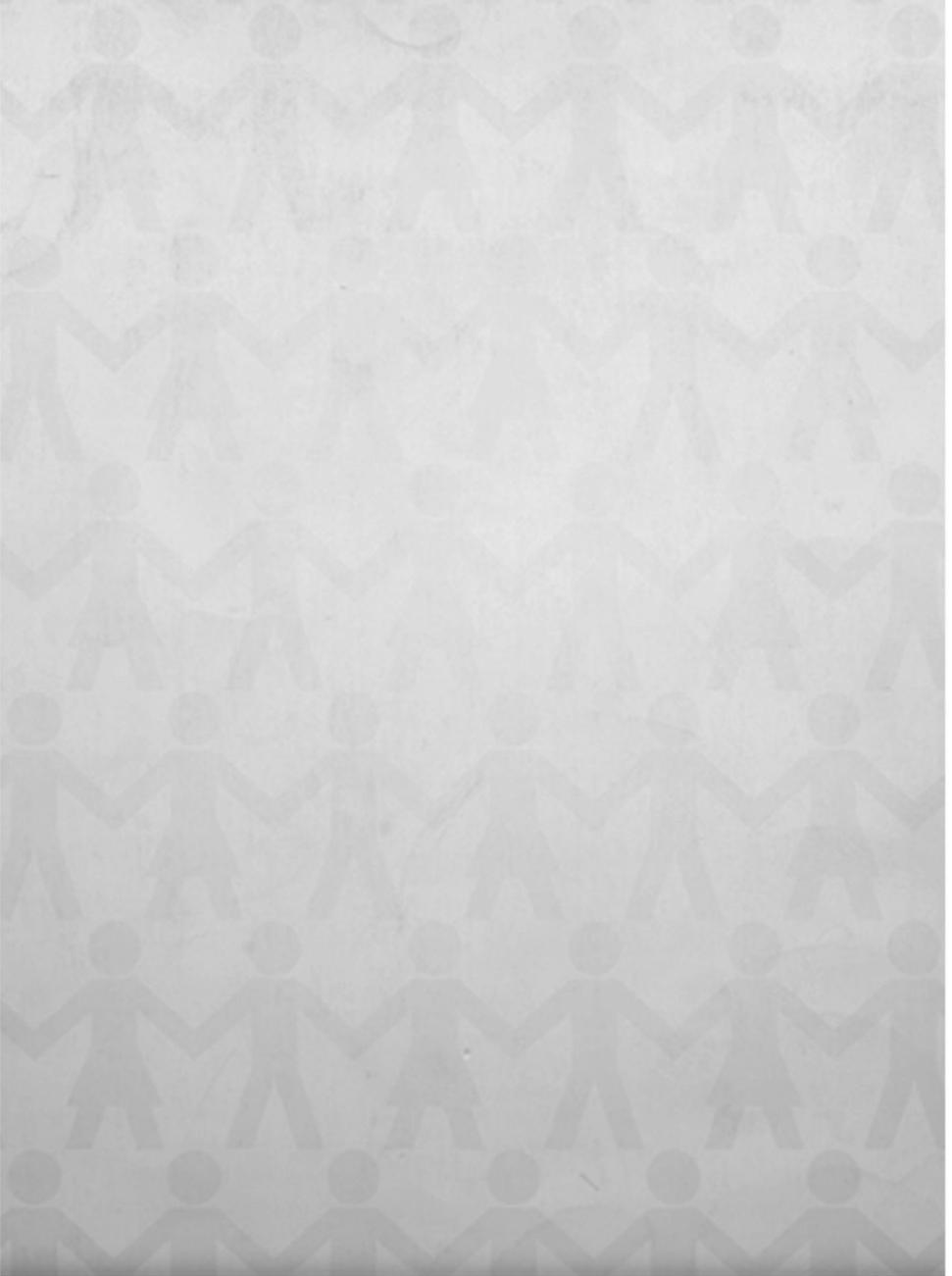
Notes/Prayer Journal:



Notes/Prayer Journal:



Notes/Prayer Journal:





www.freedombaptistchurch.com

www.facebook.com/freedominvirginia

www.youtube.com/FreedomChurch4Others

www.pinterest.com/freedominva

Senior Pastor Larry Luffman

Follow Pastor on Twitter @larryluffman